

# LOCAL IMPACT

CHILD EVANGELISM FELLOWSHIP OF MIDDLE TENNESSEE



Opening prayer at Southside School



Bible lesson at Carroll-Oakland School

## BEDLAM & BLISS

Loud sounds of excitement rang out as the children attending Good News Club at Southside School burst through the art room doorway and spied the volunteer team from Hillcrest Baptist Church. Hugs and fist bumps were exchanged along with cries of “I’ve missed you!” and “I’m so happy to be at Good News Club again!” The joy of reunion filled the air and happy chatter echoed around the room.

Scenes just like this one happened again and again throughout Middle Tennessee, all over the state, and across the country this month as Good News Clubs resumed. As an observer, it is often difficult to determine who is more excited on the first day back at club - the children or the volunteers.

Judy Land, a team leader at West Elementary’s Good News Club, referred to their first day of club as “bedlam and bliss”. The first day of club is always a little hectic. Bedlam. Setting up the room, stopping in the hallway to answer questions, picking up last-minute registrations, checking registration forms, greeting new children, conversations with returning children, and communicating classroom procedures can make everyone feel like they are being pulled in ten different directions.

However, the first day is also full of sweetness. Bliss. Maybe it is the quiet awe and wonder as children listen intently to the Bible lesson or the excitement as everyone sings together. Maybe it is the big eyes of a child as he looks up at a club worker to tell them something important or hearing the pride in a child’s voice as she recites and explains the day’s memory verse.

Most of all, it is the presence of the Holy Spirit, right there inside the school building. What a blessing it is to come together from across congregations and denominations to serve the Lord by serving children. What a tremendous privilege it is to proclaim the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ to the children, right where they are!

### Don't miss these articles!

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**For where two or three are gathered in my name,  
there am I among them.**

*Matthew 18:20 (ESV)*

## GOOD NEWS CLUBS - LIGHT IN THE DARKNESS

The Satanic Temple's plan to introduce "After School Satan Clubs" in public schools is not turning out the way they had hoped. "If anything, the threat they pose to children's wellbeing has spurred more interest in our Good News Clubs," says CEF Executive Vice President Moises Esteves. "You know, **when the devil overreaches, God uses it to advance His kingdom.**"

"Many people who might never have heard about Good News Clubs have been made aware of them because of the absurd attempt to corrupt children with so-called After School Satan Clubs," he adds.

After School Satan Clubs have been launched around the country as a way to get all clubs banned — especially CEF's Good News Clubs. The unholy crusade is being orchestrated by Lucien Greaves, the program's founder and the co-founder of the Satanic Temple. His organization includes members of the Satanic Temple as well as interested atheists. Their strategy involves CEF's God-given victory in 2001, when the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that Good News Clubs have the same right to be held in schools as any other after-school club.

"The devil's 'equal access' strategy has failed," Esteves says. "Satan hates that Child Evangelism Fellowship is empowering believers to share the Good News of Christ in public schools. God is using this for His glory as our Good News Clubs are on the rise all across the country."

**Not even one CEF club has been shut down from their efforts.** On the contrary, publicity from their efforts has actually increased interest in Good News Clubs. Since the beginning of advertisements for After School Satan Clubs, more schools have requested Good News Clubs.

Fresh from a courtroom victory in Rhode Island, CEF is gearing up for the new school year. In late July, CEF Rhode Island and its Good News Clubs prevailed in a lawsuit against Rhode Island's Providence Public School District and its superintendent, Dr. Javier Montanez, who had denied the clubs access for two years.

"CEF staff and volunteers had not been able to reach the children in this school district with the Gospel," Esteves said. "We are thrilled to reenter these schools and set up our programs once more, offering thousands of kids a chance to learn about God's powerful love. **With so many toxic influences competing for the hearts and minds of the young, CEF's Good News Clubs are a candle in the darkness.**"

School officials are noticing the positive difference that Good News Clubs make. A survey of over 200 principals from 28 states reports that 87 percent of those principals "noticed an improvement in student behavior." Lives of children and their families are changing because of the message of hope and grace offered at Good News Clubs.

*Reprinted from CEFOnline.com*

## FIRST LINE OF DEFENSE

Life is busy. Every season of life has a myriad of things which fill our time - family, friends, work, church - and it is so easy to fill our time with the hustle and bustle of daily life. Often, our prayer life becomes a casualty to the busy-ness swirling around us and is only restored to daily habit when we encounter a crisis.

This is the exact opposite of God's intent. Oswald Chambers wrote, "We tend to use prayer as a last resort, but God wants it to be our first line of defense." Or, in the words of CEF founder, J. Irvin Overholtzer, in his book *The Seven Laws of Prayer*, "**To carry on the work of God is to wage a terrific warfare with Satan and all of his hosts. Before the battle there must be preparation wrought in prayer; during the battle the warriors must be upheld by those guided of God to be intercessors; after the battle there should be praise.**"

Your prayers make a difference! You prepare us for battle, you uphold us during battle, and rejoice with us when God gives the victory in battle. **Will you commit to praying for CEF ministries** - locally, nationally, and world-wide? Will you help carry on the work of God through prayer?

## PRAYER NEEDS

*Across all levels of CEF*

- Praise God for the 2001 Supreme Court decision that allows Good News Club equal access to public school facilities.
- Pray the Lord of the harvest will raise up more volunteers and workers to help teach children about Jesus (Luke 10:2).
- Pray that the hearts of children will be open to Jesus, that they will come to know Him early.

*In the Middle TN Chapter*

- Praise God for the doors open to Good News Club in Wilson and Marshall County Schools.
- Pray for a church partner at Barfield Elementary School (Murfreesboro)
- Pray for the volunteers serving in Good News Clubs across the chapter
- Pray for all barriers to be removed at Lebanon Special Schools and Franklin Special Schools
- Pray for those who made professions of faith at the fair, that they would find a church body and grow in their relationship with the Lord.



**TOP (L-R):**  
Volunteer team from Third Baptist, Murfreesboro  
Sharon R., playing background music  
Joy E., Local Director, & Don L., Greeter

**BOTTOM (L-R):**  
Ruth P., Volunteer Face Painter  
Vivian B., Volunteer Face Painter

# FUN TIMES AT THE FAIR

What a way to wrap up the summer! For more than a decade, our free face-painting tent at the Wilson County Fair (now the combined Wilson County/TN State Fair) has shared the Gospel with fair-goers, and this summer was no different. Under the leadership of Cheryl Downing, the chapter's Fair Coordinator, over 40 volunteers served during the ten days of the fair. This group of volunteers braved hot temperatures and heavy traffic to give generously of their time and talents to **share the Gospel with 1350 children!** These faithful men and women also had the opportunity to pray with **36 children who professed their faith in Jesus** for the very first time.

Thank you to each and every person who prayed for or served in this ministry outreach. Special thanks to **Swanson Developments**, our premier sponsor, and **Impact Realty**, ministry partner, for their financial support of the fair ministry.

## FREE RESOURCES... AND SO MUCH MORE

This year, our chapter website got a makeover! Take a few minutes (or more) to visit the Resources section. It's for anyone who teaches children, whether that's Sunday School, children's church, or Good News Club!  
[cefmiddletennessee.com](http://cefmiddletennessee.com)



*save the date!*  
**MARK YOUR CALENDARS  
FOR THE 2024  
NASHVILLE PRAISE  
SYMPHONY BENEFIT  
CONCERT**  
*February 17, 2024*

## UPCOMING EVENTS

5 OCT ALL DAY

Bring Your Bible to School Day



7 OCT 9:00 - 10:30 AM

Gospel Face Painting Training  
Believer's Chapel, Murfreesboro



1 NOV ALL DAY

CEF World Day of Prayer



11 NOV 9:00 - 11:30 AM

Christmas Party Club Training  
Walter Hill Baptist, Murfreesboro



28 NOV ALL DAY

Giving Tuesday



6 FEB-12 MAR

Teaching Children Effectively  
Virtual Course, Statewide

17 FEB 6:00 - 8:00 PM

Nashville Praise Symphony Concert  
Belle Aire Baptist, Murfreesboro



7-9 MAR

GUIDE Retreat (tentative)  
CEF Headquarters, Warrenton, MO



## CHRISTMAS PARTY CLUB

Christmas? In September? Seems too early, doesn't it? Why is Christmas already on our radar? Because Christmas is a great time to celebrate the birth of Jesus AND tell children the true meaning of Christmas. You can **celebrate Christmas by hosting a Christmas Party Club** for children near you. Christmas Party Club curriculum includes songs, games, memory verse teaching, and a Bible lesson to provide a fun and meaningful celebration. These clubs are a fun and effective way to introduce the Gospel to children.

Most children have heard of Christmas – but many have no idea about its true meaning. And of course, that's what we get to share during these Party Clubs—about Jesus' birth and the reason He came to earth. When you tell children the true meaning of Christmas, their lives can be changed forever.

Christmas is a great time to tell children about Jesus. You can be a part of the **world-wide movement** that's sharing the Gospel through Christmas Party Clubs. Learn how you can help children learn the true meaning of Christmas by joining us for training on November 11 or *call to set up a training session for your church!*

## DID YOU KNOW...

- Every CEF chapter is locally funded? Your gifts to CEF of Middle TN help reach children right here.
- We now offer ACH as a giving option? Visit our website, [cefmiddletennessee.com/donate](http://cefmiddletennessee.com/donate) and select the "bank" option instead of entering your credit card information.
- You can satisfy your IRA's Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) with an IRA charitable rollover gift to CEF of Middle TN? Contact your financial planner or plan administrator for details.
- We have a Venmo account? It is @CEFMiddleTN and makes giving a breeze.
- We have a Facebook page? Take a minute to visit us at [www.facebook.com/CEFMt](http://www.facebook.com/CEFMt) and like our page. Then share it with your friends!
- You can help spread the word? If your church is having a ministry fair, missions conference or other event, we'd be grateful for the opportunity to be present. Reach out and let us know.

**Thank you for all you do to support  
ministry to children!**

## ETERNAL FRUIT

"Thank you for what you've done in her life." Those were the words in the text message from B's grandfather, Jeff, sent the evening that she believed on Jesus as her Savior. Last year, B regularly attended Good News Club at Stoner Creek Elementary (Mt. Juliet). Jeff shared, "It was the lessons learned at Good News Club that prompted many conversations about Jesus, sin, and salvation." B had also heard the Gospel, shared simply and clearly a few days earlier when she had her face painted at the fair, prompting even more discussion about what it meant to trust in Jesus. B's decision to follow Christ was the culmination of many faithful adults pouring into her life - parents, grandparents, Sunday School teachers, and Good News Club volunteers. It is always a wonderful **gift from God** to be able to see the eternal fruits of the Good News Club ministry and to witness the Holy Spirit at work in the lives of children.